



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 18 2010

Eric E. Murdock, P.E.,
Chief Engineer, City of Syracuse
Department of Water
101 North Beech Street,
Syracuse, New York 13210

Dear Mr. Murdock:

This is in response to the City of Syracuse's June 1, 2010 request for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for the proposed Harbor Brook Bypass Water Main Replacement project. The project is part of abatement efforts required by the Amended Consent Judgment entered into by Onondaga County, Atlantic States Legal Foundation, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on January 20, 1998, and amended by Orders dated April 27, 1998, December 14, 2006, April 24, 2008 and November 16, 2009. The project is being partially funded through a federal Special Appropriations Act grant.

The proposed water main replacement will occur from the eastern border of Onondaga County, specifically the Burnet Park Zoo, to the existing 36-inch water main near the intersection of South Geddes Street and Marcellus Street. The replacement will run through the Burnet Park Zoo property owned by Onondaga County and Burnet Park property, South Wilbur Avenue, Conservation Place, Marcellus Street and Fowler High School property owned by the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York.

The proposed project consists of upgrades to the existing 3,450 linear feet (lf) of water main including all appurtenances. This project would occur in phases; approximately 2,000 lf will be installed first and the remainder at a later date. The existing 48-inch water main will be replaced by either a 42-inch or 36-inch water main.

The project meets the CATEX eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.204(a)(1)(ii). This category includes, "actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity, or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities."

This project does not involve: a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground water; an increase in the volume or loading of pollutants to receiving water; or capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population. Further, it is not contrary to any state or regional growth plan or strategy; and it is not primarily for the purpose of future development.

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.204(b)(1) through (b)(10), are not present.

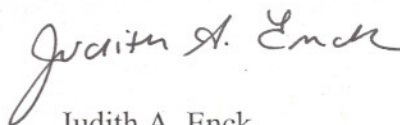
Based on our review, EPA approves the request for the CATEX. Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Furthermore, EPA strongly encourages project sponsors to incorporate green practices into projects. These practices can and should be incorporated at the design stage of each project and they can also support development of a "green" workforce and reduce future operation and maintenance costs. EPA hopes to see green practices as a standard part of the Department of Water's future projects. For your information, we are enclosing a factsheet that identifies a wide variety of green recommendations for your consideration.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to Grace Musumeci, Chief, Environmental Review Section, at the above address. Please note that this CATEX will be available on EPA Region 2's website at <http://www.epa.gov/region02/spmm/r2nepa.htm>.

Sincerely,



Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

EPA Region 2 Green Project Recommendations and Resources

EPA strongly encourages that the concepts outlined below be considered by those receiving federal grant assistance for water, wastewater, stormwater, or water quality protection projects. In this regard, project sponsors are encouraged to use local and/or recycled materials; to recycle materials generated onsite; to utilize low-emissions technologies and fuels; and to incorporate renewable-energy (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, and biomass) and energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable technology in project design, construction, and operation.

- **Utilize Clean Diesel Technology** <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/diesel/>
Diesel controls, cleaner fuel, and cleaner construction practices can be utilized for both on-road and off-road equipment used for transportation, excavation, and other construction activities. Particular consideration should be given to the following concepts:
 - 1) Strategies and technologies to reduce unnecessary idling, including auxiliary power units, the use of electric equipment, and establishing and enforcing limits on idling time.
 - 2) The use of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel in non-road applications.
 - 3) The use of add-on control technologies like diesel oxidation catalysts and particulate filters, repowering, or newer, cleaner diesel equipment.
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/diesel/connetro.pdf>
 - 4) Contract specifications can be used to require contractors to use advanced pollution controls and clean fuels. <http://www.epa.gov/diesel/construction/contract-lang.htm>. A model specification is available online at <http://www.northeastdiesel.org/pdf/NEDC-Construction-Contract-Spec.pdf>.
- **Use Alternative and Renewable Energy**
The U.S. Department of Energy's "Green Power Network" (GPN) provides information and markets that can be used to supply alternative generated electricity. The following link identifies several suppliers of renewable energy.
http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying_power.shtml
- **Incorporate onsite energy generation and energy efficient equipment upgrades into projects at drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities**
Promote the use of captured biogas in combined heat and power systems and/or renewable energy (wind, solar, etc.) to generate energy for use onsite as well as upgrades to more energy efficient equipment (pumps, motors, etc.).
http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/bettermanagement_energy.html
- **Utilize Energy Star/Multi-media building and land design practices**
Consideration should be given to including building practices which have multi-media benefits, including energy efficiency, water conservation, and healthy indoor air quality. Apply building rating systems and tools, such as Energy Star, Energy Star Indoor Air Package, and Water Sense for building construction. http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=business.bus_bldgs and <http://www.usgbc.org/>

- **Implement Water Efficiency**

Water efficiency can make infrastructure systems more sustainable by reducing the quantity of water treated and distributed through the water supply system, and subsequently by the wastewater treatment and disposal systems. EPA is promoting water use practices that increase efficiency, eliminate waste, and conserve water resources, resulting in a decreased burden on our water resources. The WaterSense program, <http://www.epa.gov/watersense>, promotes the market for water-efficient products through the use of WaterSense-labeled products and the use of contractors certified through a WaterSense-labeled program. Water supply utilities can also decrease the burden on water and wastewater treatment systems by reducing the amount of drinking water lost from their leaking water distribution pipes. Additional details on the Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure>.

- **Source Management for Stormwater Runoff**

Green infrastructure and low impact development approaches can reduce, capture, and treat stormwater runoff at its source. Site-specific practices, such as green roofs, downspout disconnections, rain harvesting/gardens, planter boxes, and porous pavements are designed to mimic natural hydrologic functions and decrease the amount of impervious area and stormwater runoff. Preserving and recreating natural landscape features can create functional and appealing site drainage that treats storm water as a resource rather than a waste product.

<http://www.epa.gov/nps/lid>, and

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/greeninfrastructure/technology.cfm>

- **Encourage cost-efficient, environmentally-friendly landscaping**

EPA's GreenScapes program provides cost-efficient and environmentally friendly solutions for landscaping. Designed to help preserve natural resources and prevent waste and pollution, GreenScapes encourages companies, government agencies, other entities, and homeowners to make holistic decisions regarding waste generation and disposal and the associated impacts on land, water, air, and energy use. <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservesrr/greenscapes/index.htm>

- **Use recycled materials in highway and construction projects.**

Many industrial and construction byproducts are suitable and available for use in road or infrastructure construction. <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservesrr/imr/index.htm> Use of these materials can save money and reduce environmental impact. The Recycled Materials Resource Center has user guidelines and specifications for recycled material.

<http://www.recycledmaterials.org/tools/uguidelines/index.asp>.

- **Safely Reuse and/or Recycle Project-related Debris and Waste**

The *Federal Green Construction Guide for Specifiers* includes a construction waste management specification. <http://www.wbdg.org/design/greenspec.php>

- **Utilize environmentally preferable purchasing**

Promote markets for environmentally preferable products by referencing EPA's multi-attribute Environmentally Preferable Purchasing guidance. <http://www.epa.gov/epp>